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A Man Like
CURTIS
The Best Of Curtis Mayfield
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1. Move On Up (3.47)
2. Superfly (3.51)
3. (Don't Worry) If There's A Hell Below
We're All Gonna Go (7.04)
4. You Are, You Are (3.38)
5. Give Me Your Love (4.15)
6. Never Stop Loving Me (3.34)
7. Tripping Out (3.52)
8. Soul Music (3.58)
9. This Year (3.48)
10. Ain't No Love Lost (3.12)
11. Pusherman (5.00)
12. Freddie's Dead (5.26)
13. Do Do Wap Is Strong In Here (5.29)
14. Hard Times (3.58)
15. In Your Arms Again (Shake It) (4.25)
16. So In Love (5.12)

A Man Like CURTIS

Licensed from Philip H.A. Bailey (PHAB) by arrangement with Ichiban Records Inc.

Special thanks to Gof Abbey.

Includes sleevenote by Ralph Tee



MUSCD 007

Total running time : 70:29



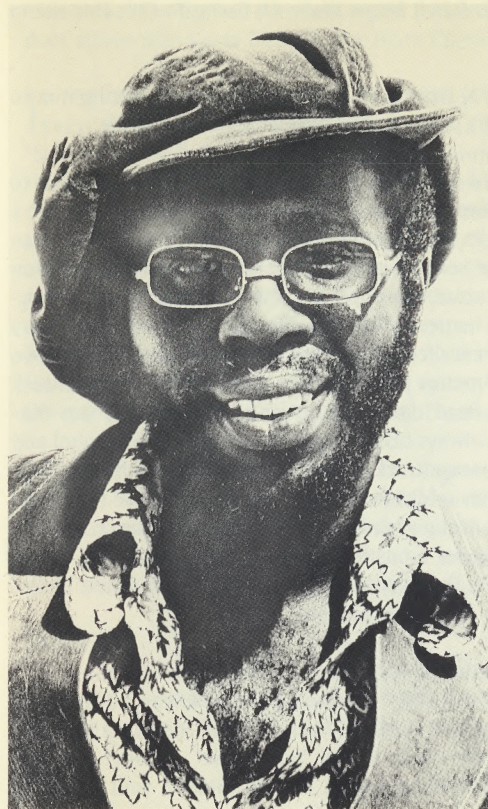
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FOR A MAN WHO HAS GIVEN US SO MUCH WITH HIS INNOVATIVE, THOUGHT PROVOKING AND GREATLY INSPIRED MUSIC, IT IS A TRAGEDY THAT CURTIS MAYFIELD SHOULD BE LEFT WITH SO LITTLE. ONLY TWO YEARS AGO "THE RETURN OF SUPERFLY" MOVIE AND SOUNDTRACK ALBUM SAW A RESURGENCE IN THE VETERAN SOUL MAN'S CAREER, CURTIS JOINING FORCES WITH PROLIFIC RAPPER ICE-T FOR THE SINGLE "SUPERFLY 1990" AND AN ALBUM OF NEW SONGS FOR CAPITOL RECORDS. TODAY HE IS BOUND TO A WHEEL CHAIR AT HOME IN ATLANTA, PARALYSED FROM THE NECK DOWN FOLLOWING AN APPALLING ACCIDENT ON STAGE IN NEW YORK WHERE HE WAS HIT BY A LIGHTING RIG.

Curtis was born in Chicago in 1942 where he formed a vocal group The Alphas before he had even reached his teens. Like many great artists he nurtured his vocal skills in church, but it was the secular R & B music of groups like The Drifters that had a greater influence on the direction of his music extremely early on in his career.

In 1956 he met Jerry Butler with whom he formed The Roosters, later to become The Impressions. While Jerry gave the group their first hit as lead singer on "For Your Precious Love" (actually promoted by Vee Jay records as a solo Jerry Butler record), it was Curtis who fronted the group from 1961 to 1970 with his distinctive high tenor voice for a string of American hits including "First Impressions", their one Top 20 UK chart hit when issued here in 1975.

In 1968 Curtis launched his own label, Curtom Records, in order to cultivate local talent and give himself a better vehicle to express his strong views on the black issues of the day to which he had become very consciously aware. In 1970 he made Leroy Hutson lead singer with The Impressions and embarked on a solo career where he further pursued the socially conscious depictions of urban black street life he had first explored with The Impressions on songs like the classic "This Is My Country" (1968). A social commentator, his songs became sermonettes on drugs, war, racism, the environment and religion, deliberately sung without metaphors to



hit issues head on in a language everyone could understand. While Marvin Gaye is often credited as laying the matrix to the whole spectrum of socially conscious music in the 70s, Curtis was preaching about the concerns of the civil rights movement and other political issues on songs like "A Change Is Gonna Come" and "People Get Ready" with The Impressions back in the mid-60s.

"Curtis" was his debut album (1970) and was musically an extension of the sound he cultivated with The Impressions, a fusion of complex rhythms, busy drums, funky synths, and wah wah guitar washed with strings which definitely inspired producers like Norman Whitfield on songs like "Papa Was A Rolling Stone" (1972). It included "Move On Up" which became Curtis' biggest British solo hit (reaching No. 12 in July

1971), and "(Don't Worry) If There's A Hell Below We're All Going To Go". This album is now extremely rare.

His next album was "Roots" (1971) which caused enough of a stir to bring him to England for his first solo concert performance without The Impressions.

In 1972 Curtis was commissioned to write, perform and produce the music to 'Super Fly' - (a 70s expression meaning hip, high fashion, etc), a movie about a drug dealer with a heart of gold. In fact it came not long after "Shaft", the Isaac Hayes scored movie, and was the second of only two successful blaxploitation movies between 1970 and 1973 that set out to project images of black men as larger than life super studs and super heroes. While the film tended to lack credibility and look very dated today, Curtis excelled himself musically and gave himself two timeless top ten national hits in America with the title track and the fierce attack on the drug culture on "Freddie's Dead" (although only the instrumental was featured in the film itself). Curtis has always been an anti-drugs man, anti-alcohol and smoking too for that matter. The soundtrack album, meanwhile, also featured his version of "Give Me Your Love", later a Motown classic and 'rare groove' for Sisters Love (recently re-recorded by the group's lead singer Vermettya Royster), and the popular "Pusherman" (an expression for a hustler with a super fly ego!). The album was one of a number of soundtracks Curtis scored during this era (which also delivered hits like "Let's Do It Again" for The Staple Singers).

His solo albums, meanwhile, continued with "Back To The World" (1973), a Gold album in the States; "Got To Find A Way" - including the American hit "Ain't No Love Lost" (1974), "There's No Place Like America Today" (1975)-including the laid-back groove of "Hard Times" and the classic ballad "So In Love", "Sweet Exorcist" (1976), "Give, Get, Take & Have"(1976)-including the UK modern soul favourite

"Soul Music" and "In Your Arms Again (Shake It)", "Do It All Night" (1978), and his duet album with Linda Clifford "The Right Combination" (1979).

In 1981 the Curtom label ceased its affiliation with Warner Brothers (having earlier been distributed by Buddah and then RSO), and after the release of the "Something To Believe In" album (which features "Tripping Out" and the incredible "Never Stop Loving Me", later covered by Keni Burke), Curtom closed shop and dispersed with its impressive roster which had delivered so many special moments for artists including Leroy Hutson, Linda Clifford, Natural Four, Mavis Singers, Mystique and The Jones Girls. Curtom had become to Chicago what Motown was to Detroit, while Curtis had earned himself a reputation as both an exceptional artist and writer/producer for both his own label, other labels and major record companies. Any true Curtis fan will include his work for Patti Labelle ("Trusting In You") and The Fascinations ("Girls Are Out To Get You") among his finest of all time, not to mention the many great sides for his protege Major Lance.

It has been impossible to include every great song in the time this compilation allows, but I believe you have an indispensable selection here that offers the hits (both UK and stateside) together with much that is particularly sought after on the 'rare groove', 'two step' and general soul scene in the UK where we've always had good ears for real talent and sensational music.

RALPH TEE

Curtis Mayfield: Discography

Singles

(DON'T WORRY) IF THERE'S A HELL BELOW, WE'RE ALL GOING TO GO/THE MAKINGS OF YOU (November 1970, Buddah 2011 055)
MOVE ON UP/BEAUTIFUL BROTHER OF MINE/GIVE IT UP (June 1971, Buddah 2011 080)
WE GOT TO HAVE PEACE/PEOPLE GET READY (November 1971, Buddah 2011 101)
KEEP ON KEEPING ON/STONE JUNKIE (May 1972, Buddah 2011 119)
FREDDIE'S DEAD/UNDERGROUND (September 1972, Buddah 2011 141)
SUPERFLY/GIVE ME YOUR LOVE (February 1973, Buddah 2011 156)
BACK TO THE WORLD/THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN (October 1973, Buddah 2011 187)
KUNG FU/RIGHT ON FOR THE DARKNESS (August 1974, Buddah BDS 402)
MOVE ON UP/GIVE IT UP (November 1974, Buddah BDS 410)
MOTHER'S SON/LOVE ME RIGHT IN THE POCKET (March 1975, Buddah BDS 426)
NO GOODBYES/PARTY PARTY (June 1978, Curtom LV1)
THIS YEAR/THIS YEAR (Instr.) (March 1979, RSO 28)
BETWEEN YOU BABY AND ME (with Linda Clifford)/(Linda Clifford track) (August 1979, RSO 43)
IT'S ALL RIGHT/SUPERFLY (October 1980, RSO 68)
BABY IT'S YOU/BREAKIN' IN THE STREETS (November 1986, 98.6 CURT 1(T))
(CELEBRATE THE) DAY AFTER YOU (with The Blow Monkeys)/(Blow Monkeys track) (May 1987, RCA MONK 6)
MOVE ON UP/LITTLE CHILD, RUNNING WILD (June 1988, Curtom 7CUR 101)
IMO GIT U SUCKER/HE'S A FLY GUY (May 1989, Curtom 7CUR 102)
HOMELESS/PEOPLE NEVER GIVE UP (February 1990, Curtom 7CUR 106)
DO BE DOWN/GOT TO BE REAL (June 1990, Curtom 7CUR 108)
SUPERFLY 1990 (with ICE T)/SUPERFLY 1990 (Fly Mix Edit) (August 1990, Capitol CL 586)

Albums

CURTIS (February 1971, Buddah 2318 015)
CURTIS LIVE (August 1971, Buddah 2659 004)
ROOTS (January 1972, Buddah 2318 045)
SUPERFLY (November 1972, Buddah 2318 065)
BACK TO THE WORLD (September 1973, Buddah 2318 085)
CURTIS IN CHICAGO (March 1974, Buddah 2318 091)
SWEET EXORCIST (August 1974, Buddah 2318 099)
MOVE ON UP (THE BEST OF CURTIS MAYFIELD)(November 1974, Buddah BDLP 4015)
GOT TO FIND A WAY (January 1975, Buddah BDLP 4029)
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE AMERICA TODAY (August 1975, Buddah BDLP 4033)
GIVE GET TAKE AND HAVE (July 1976, Buddah BDLP 4042)
NEVER SAY YOU CAN'T SURVIVE (March 1977, Curtom K 56352)
SHORT EYES (November 1977, Curtom K 56430)
HEARTBEAT (September 1978, RSO RSS 4)
THE RIGHT COMBINATION (with Linda Clifford)(January 1980, RSO 2394 269)
SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN (October 1980, RSO 2394 271)
LOVE IS THE PLACE (U.S. only)(1981, Boardwalk)
HONESTY (March 1983, Epic EPC 25317)
WE COME IN PEACE WITH A MESSAGE OF LOVE (U.S. only)(1985, CRC)
LIVE IN EUROPE (June 1988, Ichiban CUR 22091)
PEOPLE GET READY: LIVE AT RONNIE SCOTT'S (February 1990, Essential ESMCD 003)
TAKE IT TO THE STREET (March 1990, Curtom CUR 2008)
RETURN OF SUPERFLY (film soundtrack with other artists)(August 1990, Capitol EST 2129)
OF ALL TIME: CLASSIC COLLECTION (November 1990, Ichiban CUR 22902)

MUSCD 007

1. **Move On Up (3.47)**
(Mayfield) Ivan Mogull Music Ltd
2. **Superfly (3.51)**
(Mayfield) Warner Chappell Music Ltd
3. **(Don't Worry) If There's A Hell Below
We're All Gonna Go (7.04)**
(Mayfield) Warner Chappell Music Ltd
4. **You Are, You Are (3.38)**
(Mayfield) Mayfield Music
5. **Give Me Your Love (4.15)**
(Mayfield) Warner Chappell Music Ltd
6. **Never Stop Loving Me (3.34)**
(Burke/Burke/Mayfield)
Mayfield Music/Carlin Music Corp.
7. **Tripping Out (3.52)**
(Mayfield) Copyright Control
8. **Soul Music (3.58)**
(Mayfield) Warner Chappell Music Ltd
9. **This Year (3.48)**
(Mayfield) Copyright Control
10. **Ain't No Love Lost (3.12)**
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